PUBLIC NOTICE
CLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

This will serve as notice that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) is soliciting comments from the public regarding the pending closure of an environmental case at Cross Country Travel Center, 19845 Main Street South, Cottonwood, Tehama County (Site).

SUBJECT SITE:

Cross Country Travel Center, 19845 Main Street South, Cottonwood, Tehama County

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENT PERIOD:

13 January through 14 March 2022

SUMMARY:

The Central Valley Water Board currently regulates an environmental case regarding an unauthorized release associated with underground storage tanks (UST) and dispensing systems located at the subject property (Site). The Site is currently a truck terminal and convenience store and has been an active fueling station for several decades. The Site is owned by Prabhjot S. Randhawa of Redding. The responsible party for the cleanup is the operator, Jimm Cross of Cross Petroleum (Discharger).

Sensitive Receptors

Groundwater occurs between three and nine feet below ground surface (bgs) and flows northward toward Cottonwood Creek at a gradients less than 0.01 feet per foot. An off-site downgradient offsite domestic well is located about 250 feet northwest of the former USTs. An upgradient domestic well is located on-site, at the west Site boundary. The Site is approximately 200 feet south of an unlined irrigation ditch connected to the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canal system and ½-mile south of Cottonwood Creek.

Investigative and Remedial Actions

In July 1996, an unauthorized petroleum release was discovered during the removal of three single-walled USTs under Tehama County Environmental Health Division

(TCEHD) oversight. Approximately 375 cubic yards of soil and 1,000 gallons of mixed gasoline and water were removed from the tank pit and disposed offsite. Staff estimates approximately 1,260 pounds of petroleum were removed with the excavated soil. The amount of product in the water-gasoline mixture removed from the tank pit was not documented. New USTs compliant with the 1998 federal standard were installed at a location 60 feet south of the removed USTs.

In July 1996, Central Valley Water Board staff issued a request for a workplan for a preliminary soil and groundwater investigation.

From October 1996 through May 2021, the Discharger performed quarterly monitoring of 18 monitoring wells, and the two domestic wells. Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) was the primary constituent of concern. A maximum MTBE concentration (28 micrograms per liter (ug/L)) was detected in the off-site well in December 2008. Results of onsite domestic well DW have been consistently non-detect for all constituents.

From 21 May to 7 June 2007, the Discharger conducted a groundwater and soil remediation pilot test using ozone sparging and dual-phase (DPE) methods, removing approximately 310 pounds of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg). The Discharger estimated that a total secondary source mass of approximately 500 pounds existed prior to the pilot test. In 2008, the Discharger installed a granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system on the offsite well to remove MTBE from the water supplied to the occupants of the building north of the Site. No further active remediation has been performed at the Site.

A 2014 downhole video log of the offsite well revealed casing cracks which were suspected as a pathway for impacted shallow groundwater to enter the well. In July 2017, the Discharger performed depth discrete water sampling in a boring drilled near the off-site domestic well. The primary MTBE impacted stratigraphic zone was estimated to be between 35 ft bgs and 75 ft bgs. In February 2020, the Discharger rehabilitated the well and installed sentinel wells between the source and the off-site domestic well. To seal the cracked section of casing, a C-57-licensed driller installed a new 4-inch diameter well casing (liner) within the full length of the existing 8-inch casing. The 4-inch casing was perforated with factory slots from a depth of approximately 130 ft bgs to approximately 148 ft bgs. The annulus was backfilled with a sand filter pack from the bottom to approximately two feet above the top of the screen, followed by a five-foot thick bentonite pellet transitional seal, and a neat Portland cement sanitary seal to the surface.

Since its rehabilitation, the off-site domestic well no longer draws groundwater from the impacted zone. Final sampling results of the rehabilitated well reported non-detect level of MTBE. Groundwater monitoring results through February 2021 indicated that the rehabilitation was effective in isolating the well from the shallow source of pollution.

Rationale for Closure

Free product has not been associated with this Site. The Site meets the Low-Threat Closure Policy (LTCP) Class 2 criteria, with the exception that the nearest water supply wells (upgradient onsite domestic well and offsite domestic well) are located within 250 feet of the source area, and a surface water body (ACID Canal) is located downgradient within 650 feet of the defined plume boundary. However, both of the domestic wells and two sentinel wells have not contained detectable concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons since the fourth quarter of 2019. The only remaining constituent, MTBE, occurs at a concentration below water quality objectives and is expected to continue to decrease over time. As an active fueling station, the Site meets the exemption for vapor intrusion to indoor air. The Site also meets Criterion 3(a) for direct contact and outdoor air exposure as maximum concentrations of petroleum constituents in soil from confirmation samples were less than or equal to those listed in Table 1 of the LTCP. Therefore, the Site meets the LTCP Class 5a Groundwater-Specific Criteria.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

General information regarding the Site can be obtained from the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker web site. (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=T0610300101).

All interested agencies, groups and persons wishing to comment on the pending case closure must provide these comments in writing. The comments should be submitted by **14 March 2022** to the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205, Redding, CA 96002. For information, please call Bill Bergmann at (530) 224-4852 or contact him by e-mail at William.Bergmann@waterboards.ca.gov.